

CELEBRATING SAN MATEO COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of San Mateo County, California, a county which I proudly represent, along with my good friend Anna Eshoo in the United States House of Representatives.

Much of the history of San Mateo County can be derived from its unique founding. The county was not one of the original counties created when California was granted Statehood in 1850, but instead came about as a political compromise. Originally part of San Francisco County, a group of progressively minded citizens, fed up with corruption in San Francisco, decided that it would be easier to clean up one government rather than two and proposed merging the San Francisco County and City governments. However, those opposed to this plan were also politically strong and at the end the day a compromise was agreed upon—that the San Francisco governments would be consolidated but it would become two counties.

The newly constituted San Mateo County was created from the most rural areas of San Francisco County and had a population of about 2500 people. While the progressives of San Francisco anticipated seizing control of this more remote area to establish a clean ethical government, their efforts were defeated by rampant ballot box stuffing and election fraud in 1856. In an interesting turn of event, two of the Judges who certified the election, John Johnson and Charles Clark, were themselves elected as two of the new county's first supervisors. This group of criminals were run out of town shortly after being elected when a vigilante mob of 800 San Franciscans rose up to take revenge on James Casey for his shooting of newspaper editor James King of William. After hanging Casey for shooting the popular editor, the mob turned south and his cronies who had infiltrated the County government fled San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, although this is the 150th anniversary of San Mateo County, the human story of the land dates back much further and was home to numerous and varied cultures. Recent archeology indicates that man lived on the Peninsula as far back as 6500 years ago. When the first European settlers from Spain came in 1769, about 2000 native Californians called the Peninsula home. These Spanish conquistadors quickly colonized the area bringing their Catholic faith with them.

Before the Gold Rush of 1848, a number of Americans and other foreigners inhabited the southern hills of San Mateo working in a fledgling logging industry or at the port that was quickly expanding in Redwood City. Despite the fact that these industries continued to grow with the discovery of Gold in northern California, the County remained a lightly populated and mostly rural community for the remainder of the 19th Century.

It was this rural nature of San Mateo County that made it a place where certain activities could take place that were not permissible in San Francisco. Although San Francisco has

always possessed a reputation as an "open city," but for many years it was common knowledge that if you were unable to get away with something in San Francisco all you had to do was cross over the county line. Examples of such activities included gambling, prostitution and dueling. Although outlawed everywhere in California, dueling continued to exist in San Mateo County and Daly City was the location of a duel that resulted in the death of United States Senator David Broderick. By the turn of the century prize fighting and horse racing, now illegal in San Francisco, were also commonly occurring in San Mateo County and the historic Bay Meadows Race Track was opened in 1934. During the era of Prohibition the prolific bootlegging operations run out of the County prompted one gangster to declare San Mateo the most corrupt county in California.

Mr. Speaker, despite the examples of lawlessness, San Mateo County remained a sleepy suburb of bustling San Francisco until America entered World War II. Like so many other towns and areas of the country, the need for components for the war machine revved up San Mateo County's economic engine as factories sprang up to produce necessary electronic parts. Coupled with the growth of firms such as EIMAC, Varian, Dalmo Victor and Ampex, was the expansion of hotels, warehouses and other supporting business. Perhaps the best example of the increasing stature of San Mateo County can be seen in the fact that the airport in South San Francisco, once dubbed a "mud hole" was handling one-tenth of all air traffic in the United States by 1946.

Industrial growth brought an increase in population and by the end of World War II the rural nature of San Mateo County passed into oblivion. This once quiet community is now home to some of the largest companies in the world, and a magnet for the computer software and biotechnological industry. Mr. Speaker, even though San Mateo County is now a major population and business hub, it continues to remain committed to the values of open space that were present when the then rural County was founded 150 years ago. I am proud to have contributed to the County's commitment to environmental conservation by expanding the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include extraordinary landscapes such as Rancho Corral de Tierra, Mori Point and Sweeney Ridge. By designating these beautiful tracts of land as part of our national park and protecting them from development, we are able to maintain a connection to the rural heritage of San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, San Mateo County's history during the past 150 years has certainly been colorful and storied and serves as an important bridge to a limitless and bright future. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this significant milestone, the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of San Mateo County in California.

HONORING THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY "HAWKS" FOR AN OUTSTANDING NCAA EFFORT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Monmouth University "Hawks" this year in becoming the first men's basketball team in the college's history to win a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament game.

This accomplishment also gives me the opportunity to highlight Monmouth University—an educational institution that has experienced dramatic growth in recent years, enticing students from across the country and around the world to take advantage of its innovative academic programs.

The Hawk's trip to the NCAA was launched on March 8 when they defeated Fairleigh Dickinson and won the college's fourth Northeast Conference Tournament and an invitation to the NCAA Tournament. The Hawk's then were assigned to play their televised, 2006 NCAA Opening Round play-in game against Hampton, which had won the Mid-East Athletic Conference tournament championship.

As recounted by Ed Occhipinti, sports editor of the school paper, "A textbook display of motion offense, backdoor cuts, accurate long-distance shooting and a stifling match-up zone defense led to a dominant 71-49 win over Hampton. The country now knew what Hawks fans have known for years: their brand of basketball is effective, even if it lacks high-flying, show-time appeal and flair."

A few days later, the Hawks, as the No. 16 seed, faced a monumental challenge from Villanova, the Number 1 seed in the NCAA tournament's Minneapolis region. Even though the Hawks were able to cut Villanova's lead to seven points in the last four minutes of the game, it was not enough to overcome Villanova's legendary powerhouse team. While the Hawks lost by a score of 58-45, they certainly achieved new levels of national recognition and respect for their performance.

CBS announcer Jim Nantz, as quoted in the school paper "Outlook," stated: "The effort of Monmouth is what makes March Madness what it is. (Coach) Dave Calloway did a tremendous job, and for the kids themselves, there was a dream. Today was a special day for Monmouth, teams like that are what give the tournament its charm."

The players and coaching staff, under the direction of Dave Calloway, as well as the entire university community, are to be heartily congratulated for this great performance.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CENTRAL OHIOANS TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONDA IN 2006

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate some of the men and women who live in my Congressional district